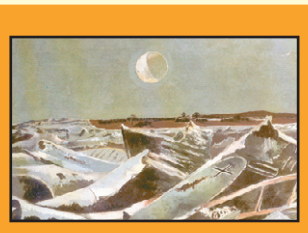
ISSUE 30 March 2003

Leys News

delivered free to your door six times a year



Blackbird Leys - looking back. Local history project news page 9.

Spot the Difference competition - with a spring theme. See page 10.

Ground cover and weed control Greenfingers garden tips on page 11.

Can you fill the editor's hat and work at Leys News. Check out page 2 for details.

Plug into Music

IT'S ALL IN THE MIX: from left, Thomas Farrell, Stephanie Cowland, Shara Celliers, James Celliers and Millicent Chitanah enjoying themselves at a Plug into Music session at the youth centre. See full story and another photo on page 8.

THE FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR ALL OF THE LEYS

Leys News

Leys News Ltd it is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community

Leys News is not affiliated to any political party

Leys News operates an equal opportunities policy and encourages any resident to get involved in its work

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Leys News - a company limited by guarantee
No. 3591512

Who's who?

Board of Directors
Molly Florey - *Chair,* Penny Wood - *Secretary*, Enid Foster, Tom Golcher, Stuart Mabbutt, Colin Minto, Roy Simmonds, Jasper Smith, Wendy Spray and Peter Stevenson

Editorial committee this issue
Al Cane, Molly Florey, Patsy Spencer, Jo Stannard, Sasha Vanderhyde, Becky Willis and Roy Simmonds

***Editor and development worker*: Al Cane**

Admin and production support: **Jo Stannard**

Distribution co-ordinator: **Ian Fieldwick**

Website development: **Julia Sutton**

Volunteers and contributors: **Julian Dourado, Stuart Mabbutt, Roy Simmonds and Flora Tahriri**

More than just news

For more information on what we can bring to your business contact

01865 425332

NEWSQUEST

www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk

Fill the hat

Keen readers will have spotted by now that ***Leys News*** is actively advertising for a new editor to replace Al Cane, who is leaving the job after four and a half years to pursue other work. As Al says "It's a great opportunity for someone with an interest in community development to get stuck into, there's a lot to learn, but it's been a really rewarding experience. It's a creative and quite flexible job and it's part time too." Hurry, the closing date for applications is not far away - see the ad below for details.

Distributors wanted

Leys News is always looking for new people to come forward as newspaper and leaflet distributors. We pay per copy delivered and we won't give you more than you can handle and of course it never rains when you are working!

Review films here

To help us develop our new culture page we are looking for film, music and art reviewers for ***Leys News.*** If you think you'd like to give it a try write or phone us and we'll tell you how it works. We're often sent free cinema tickets for reviewing new films. See review of the Magdalene Sisters on page 12.
What about having a go at reviewing art exhibitions, plays or gigs featuring local bands? Again get in touch with ***Leys News.***

Drop in on Fridays

We've been going digital on Fridays here at Kingfisher Green. Several people have been dropping in and tasting the power of Photoshop - the image manipulation programme. Friday mornings from 10 to 1 is the time, the ***Leys News*** office is the place. Sessions continue until late April.

Leys News **Bulletin** What's on in Blackbird Leys

The ***Leys News Bulletin*** will be published every two months, between issues of ***Leys News***. Watch out for a green page on community notice boards in early April.

Deadline for the next *Bulletin*

Friday 21st March

Please keep your entries to a maximum of 50 words. Entries are free, and are included subject to space.

Editor - Leys News

£10.81 per hour **16 hours per week**

flexible hours including some evening/ weekend commitments.

Our editor is responsible for producing six issues of Leys News and six issues of the Leys Bulletin per year. This involves networking, attracting articles, writing, photography, designing advertisements, editing, and laying out the paper.

Reporting to the board of directors they will develop the project, co-ordinating the editorial committee and managing staff and volunteers. They will liase with Newsquest, our printers, and our distribution co-ordinator to ensure transfer of files, printing and delivery of Leys News on schedule.

Our editor must have:
- **Excellent communication skills.**
- **Excellent IT skills.**

Ideally they will have:
- Experience of layout and design using Quark Xpress.
- Experience of working in a community setting, interest in Blackbird Leys and sensitivity to local issues.
- Journalistic and editing skills.
- Photographic skills and familiarity with image manipulation using Adobe Photoshop.

- Good inter-personal skills, with ability to draw information from people, to work in a team and to support volunteers.
- The ability to plan ahead, to be flexible, patient and self motivated.
- Ability to prioritise and to work under pressure.

Application deadline Thursday 20th March
Expected interview date Thursday 27th March

Contact us for an information pack -
then send a CV and letter of application to: *Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BX*
tel: 01865 711756 email: leysnews@hotmail.com

The next issue of *Leys News* will be out in early May.

The copy and ad deadline is Monday 31 March.

Leys News Ltd. acknowledges financial assistance from

Oxford City Council

Ealing Family Housing Association

Oxford Citizens Housing Association

Oxfordshire Community Foundation and support in kind from Newsquest (Oxfordshire) Ltd. Business Boffins Ltd.

Nursery saved

LETS WORK TOGETHER: Carol Jenkins, the Co-op's childcare business manager and Sharon Griffiths, nursery manager with Abbey McMahon, Oliver Hucks and Charlie Matthews all aged four.

The future of the Little Scholars Nursery at the College of Further Education, Blackbird Leys Campus was secured by the Oxford Swindon and Gloucester Co-op, who stepped in to rescue the threatened service. The Co-op took over the day to day running of the nursery in December. Carol Jenkins, the Co-op's childcare business manager said, "All existing staff have been retained and parents will be closely involved in the running of the service to ensure it meets their children's needs."

In the near future the Co-op will be transferring the existing service to a purpose built new building at Dunnock Way.

Children already attending Little Scholars will be guaranteed places at the new nursery, but there will be spaces available for new children from birth to five. The nursery will be able to cater for 61 children, of which 50 will be reserved for local children. There are also plans to run a new after-school club.

A steering group made up of community partners, local parents and carers meets regularly to ensure that the new nursery meets local needs.

The Co-op is inviting applications from qualified child carers for positions at the new nursery. To find out more please email them at recruitment@osg.coop.You can also call 256390.

BLITZ news

Blackbird Leys Information Technology Zone - 18 partners throughout Blackbird Leys. IT Hub based at the Community Centre.

Computer maintenance
Want to learn how to defragment your hard drive? Make the most of your computer by making it run more efficiently. A computer maintenance course will be starting on Saturday 22 March 1.30 -3.30pm for three weeks and its free. Sign up at the IT Hub in Blackbird Leys Community Centre.

Wazazinet - a parents internet group starts on Friday 7 March with a free creche and anyone who is a parent or a grandparent or caring for children is welcome to attend to use the internet to discover information for discussion about topics relating to parenting. Contact Sasha at the Hub on 714492

Leys Residents Association have been running free internet sessions at 26 Kingfisher Green on Tuesday mornings from 10 to 12. Parents and children welcome and there's free tea and coffee.

Donna, Lehia and Danah enjoying the drop in with the Leys Residents at Kingfisher Green.

Leys News at Kingfisher Green has been hosting 'Going digital' on Friday mornings from 10 to 1. People have been working with images in Photoshop and learning the basics of image manipulation.

Cuddesdon Corner drop in sessions Monday and Wednesday 12.30 - 3pm, Tuesday and Thursday 9.15 - 12

Age concern resource desk continues at the Clockhouse. Call 717614 for further information.

Volunteers are needed to help out at some of the centres. Anyone who has some time to spare and an interest in computers can come along and join our friendly team. Training and some expenses can be provided.

Blitz wants to start a family history research group soon. Anyone who is interested should call the Hub on 714492 on this or any other information about the project.

Brownies get the eye

The 1st Blackbird Leys Brownies recently visited the Guiding Heritage centre in London, and spent three hours doing all sorts of activities in the hands - on exhibition, including putting on a play in the mini theatre. and walked along the Embankment to the London Eye.

Brownies are aged 7 to 11, and meet every Thursday in the Holy Family Church Hall in Cuddesdon Way from 6 to 7.30pm. They do all sorts of activities, including a couple of pack holidays each year, when they go away for two or three days. The Blackbird Leys Brownies now have a web site, so to find out more visit them at

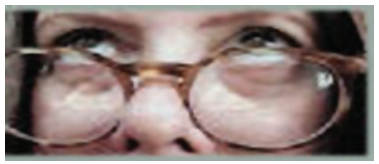
www.geocities.co.uk/blackbirdleys-brownies

To find our more about brownies, or to put your daughter's name on the waiting list, please ring Gill Manning on 770959.

THAMES VIEW: Brownies in town

LEND US YOUR EYES

Could you find some time to visit a visually-impaired person in your area? The isolation that blindness can bring is often hard to bear. Each partnership is different. Many have become friends. You will find that your time is much appreciated. If you would like to find out more please ring Liz Hunter on 725595 at the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.



It's so easy - exercise for you

Several local people have been enjoying 'Ease into Exercise' sessions run by instructor Val Kir. The four taster sessions of light exercise for the over 50's happened at the Barn on Thursday mornings. The emphasis was on having fun and meeting people. Sessions cost only a pound. Val is an experienced instructor and holds classes all over Oxford. The exercises are fully explained and demonstrated with the emphasis on feeling comfortable with music and using simple tools like the 49 pence bath scrubbers pictured left. The sessions were supported by Age Concern Oxfordshire. There will be more 'Ease into Exercise' sessions if there is enough demand. Contact Age Concern at the Clockhouse on 717614.

left - TOM, PAT AND MARGARET: Look what you can do for 49p. Photo by Roy Simmonds

Bogus callers about

Men posing as Water Board officials have been trying to trick their way into houses in Oxfordshire. The advice from the police is if in doubt keep them out, check ID cards and use a doorchain as an effective deterrent. An appointment would usually be made first by the Water Board. This warning was passed to ***Leys News*** by Age Concern Oxfordshire.

New health centre

Building work should start in Dunnock Way, next to the Spar shop, in 2004 for a new health centre to replace the existing one in Blackbird Leys Road. The Oxford City Primary Care Trust who are responsible for this development say that mental health and therapy services will feature in the new facility.

Street wardens
not yet spotted

The nine street wardens recruited by Oxford City Council to cover Blackbird Leys, Northfield Brook, Rose Hill and Littlemore areas are currently undergoing training and expect to be on the streets soon. The uniforms are being chosen to be as unlike the police as possible, whilst remaining professional in look and colour. They are likely to consist of an all weather coat, a fleece, a polo shirt, a tee shirt, a hat and trousers. They will be emblazoned with an "Oxford City Council - Street Warden" logo.

Dovecote Easter Playscheme

5 to 12 year olds

10am until 4pm

Monday 14th April
until
Thursday 17th April

or

Tuesday 22nd April
until
Friday 25th April

£3 per child
and trip money

Registration day
will be held
at the Dovecote
9.15am, Friday 4th April

Call Carol on Oxford 712299

COMMUNITY FUND

The Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is supported by the Lottery Community Fund

Steady bills - stay warm

In an attempt to tackle fuel poverty Stay Warm is a national scheme designed for people over 60. It allows them to pay a set price for electricity and gas no matter how much they use. Two people in a two bedroom house would pay approximately £10.50 per week.

Where's the catch? To join the scheme you would need to switch providers to TXU Powergen and sign up for unmetered gas and electric. Only one person needs to be over 60 in a household to be eligible. The scheme does not affect eligibility for the government's winter fuel payment. However TXU does reserve the right to review its prices at the end of the year's contract. Maintenance contracts and emergency help are unaffected.

The freephone number is 0800 1694 694 and you would need recent utilities bills to hand.

OXFORD MOBILE CRECHE LIMITED

seeks a co-ordinator

One year fixed term contract.
Part time post - 20 hours per week (flexible) @ £6-50 per hour.

We are looking for an energetic person with excellent organisational skills, and a flexible and creative approach, who will work with the board of directors to manage and develop this small community business.

For a job description and details please contact:
The Oxford Mobile Creche Ltd., The Dovecote, Nightingale Avenue, Oxford, OX4 7BU. Ox 777751

Interested? Act right now

The funding for this post has come from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation

Kassam joins the residents

Firoz Kassam, pictured left, was guest speaker at February's Leys Residents Association AGM held at the Clockhouse. He answered residents questions and concerns about the developments surrounding the expanding leisure complex.

At the AGM James Morbin was elected as chair of the committee, Cara Bagot as vice chair, and Diana Law as treasurer.

Leys Residents have had their ups and downs over the past year. However there have been some notable successes, particularly getting the go ahead for a health centre on the new part of the estate, after campaigning for several years. This will undoubtedly improve the living standard of residents. Other achievements this year include securing £20,000 and a plot of land in Gillians park to grow a community garden. The Residents Association secured better street lighting and security measures for the estate, and played a part in establishing a plaque at the spot where Ross Doyle was knocked down, as a lasting memorial. They also pulled off a trip to Drayton Manor Park, where both young and old had a fab time.

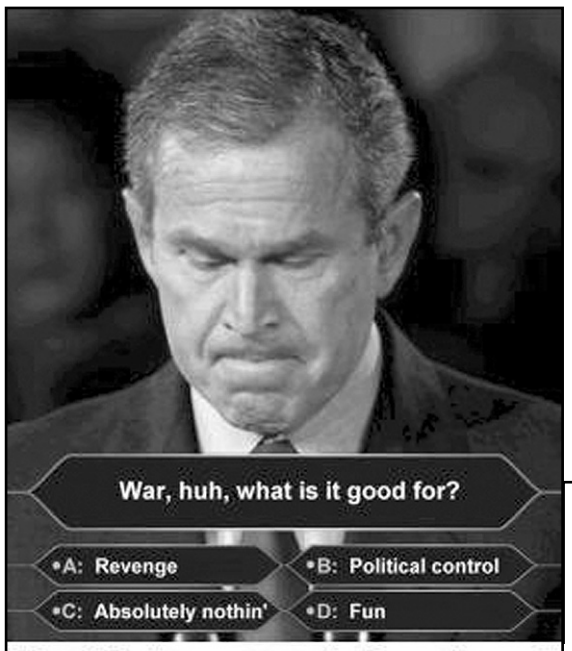
Leys Residents Association receive regular updates from councillors, police and housing associations, meaning they are able to have some input locally and hold them to account. They would like to thank everyone who has been involved over the last year, and say that "anything is possible as long as we put our minds to it."

Leys Residents Association is based at 26 Kingfisher Green, off Jack Argent Close and runs a Tuesday morning internet drop in. See the Blitz article on page 3.

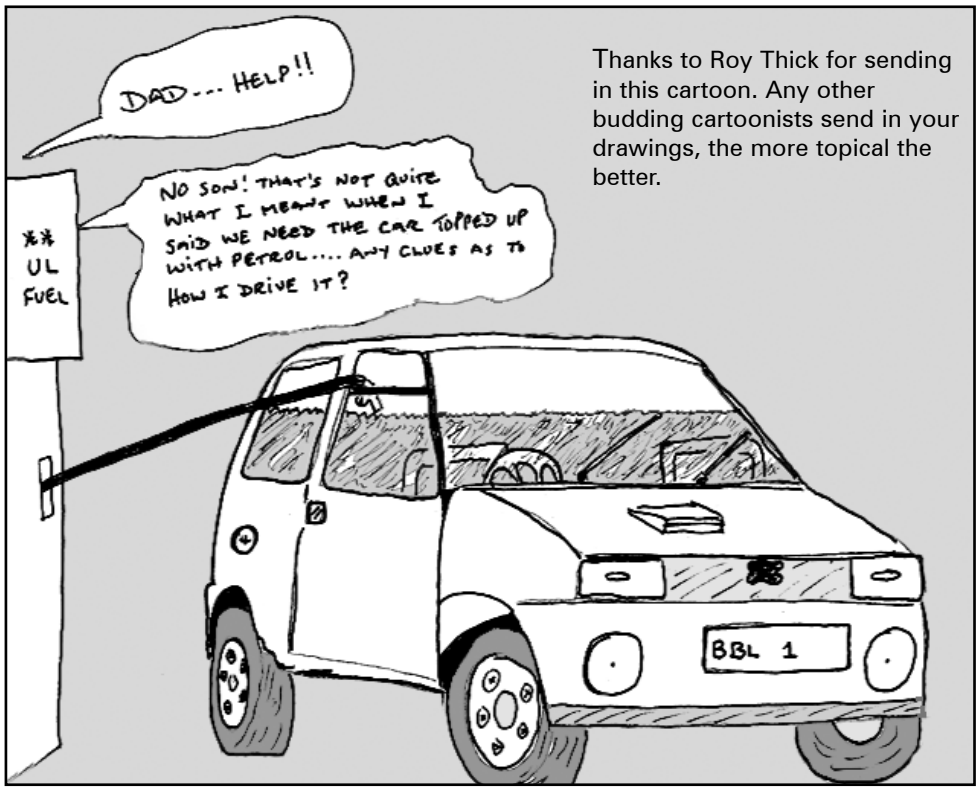
New shop opens

At the beginning of February a long awaited shop opened on Balfour Road. J.P.Discounts will stock ex-catalogue goods, including electrical goods, toys and clothes, at discount prices. Owner Mr Phillip Goodall said that it is "nice to bring a new venture into the area".

Councillor Molly Florey opened the shop and wished Mr Goodall and his staff, who are all local residents, "the very best of luck in this new venture". She spoke about how empty shops, like empty houses, attract mindless vandalism and graffiti. This leads to a run down and untidy estate, as well as not attracting any money to the area. Molly then made the first purchase in the shop, and every child who came in was given a lollipop.



"No, I don't want to ask the audience.."



Thanks to Roy Thick for sending in this cartoon. Any other budding cartoonists send in your drawings, the more topical the better.

Who wants to be....

This pastiche of 'Millionaire' (left) dropped into our email inbox the other day, we thought you'd like to play too. Thanks to Peter for the contribution.

OXFORD MARTIAL ARTS WORKSHOP
QIAN KUN DAO

Childrens Classes:
(7 - 14 yrs)
Thursday evenings
- 6pm 'til 7pm
£1.50 per Lesson.

1st LESSON FREE

Adults Classes:
Thursday Evenings
- 7.30pm 'til 9pm
£3.00 per lesson

JUBILEE HALL, SORELL ROAD, BLACKBIRD LEYS, OXFORD.

For more information phone Mike or Theresa
Home: 01865 396553 Mob: 07761972815

SNAK!

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Something Nice for Adults and Kids!

Mondays 10:30 - 1:00 at the Dovecote, BBL. Come for a drink and chat, hot food, or just some fun for the kids. Everyone welcome!

Welcome to new priests - Anglican and Catholic

The Holy Family Church is pleased to welcome the Reverend David Parry as the new Anglican priest in the parish, replacing James Ramsay. He is joined by his wife Marilyn, who is already in Oxford at Christ Church Cathedral. They will be living at the house next to the church in Cuddesdon Way.

The church also welcomes Patrick and Helen Mukholi and their son Jonathan to Blackbird Leys, who have recently arrived from Kenya. They will be working with Oxford Youth Works alongside young people on the estate.

Leys News hopes to catch up with them in time for the next issue in May.

Holy Family Church services

Friday 7 March - 7.30pm
induction of the Revd David Parry.

Sunday 23 March - 10am
commissioning service for Revd Patrick and Mrs Helen Mukholi
at 6.30 pm service for healing.

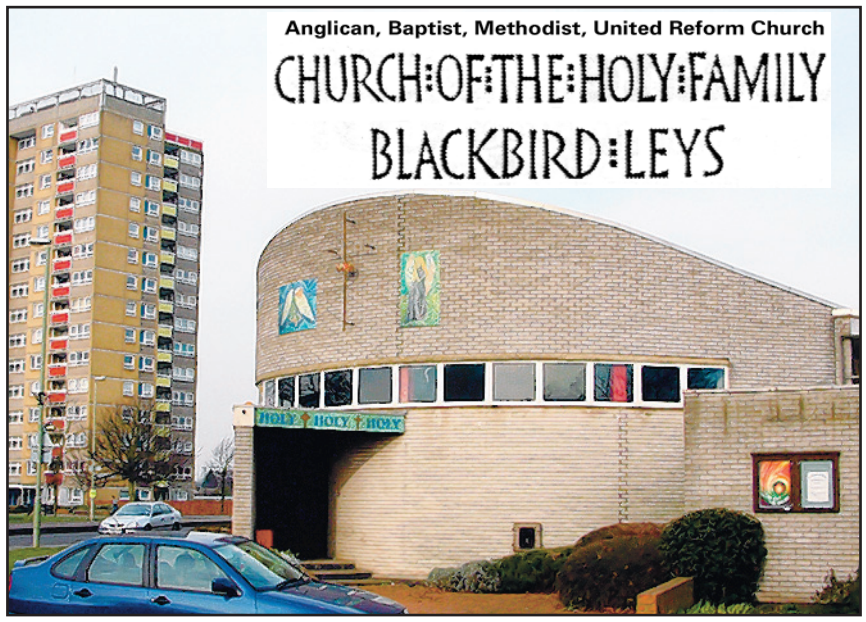
Sunday 13 April - 10am,
service for Palm Sunday with procession

Tuesday 15 April - 7.30pm
Stations of the Cross

Thursday 17 April - 7 for 7.30pm
Maundy Thursday meal

Friday 18 April - 10am
procession to Cowley Centre for a united service
7 pm Good Friday service with reading of the Passion narrative

Sunday 20 March - 5.30am
Easter Day dawn vigil followed by breakfast.
10 am Easter Day service with celebration of communion. A very happy Easter to all!



Please contact the church office on 396241 for all enquiries, or call in on any Monday evening between 6.30 and 7.30 pm.

the London based
Antigua and Barbuda National Association Choir
invites you to their fundraising concert at
Holy Family Church
Cuddesdon Way
on Saturday April 5
from 6.30pm
tickets £6 adults/£3 children available from Holy Family on 396241 or Cora Spencer on 747679

New father arrives

The Roman Catholic Sacred Heart Church on Sawpit Road also has a new resident priest in post, Father Prem Fernando, who replaces Father Peter Madden.

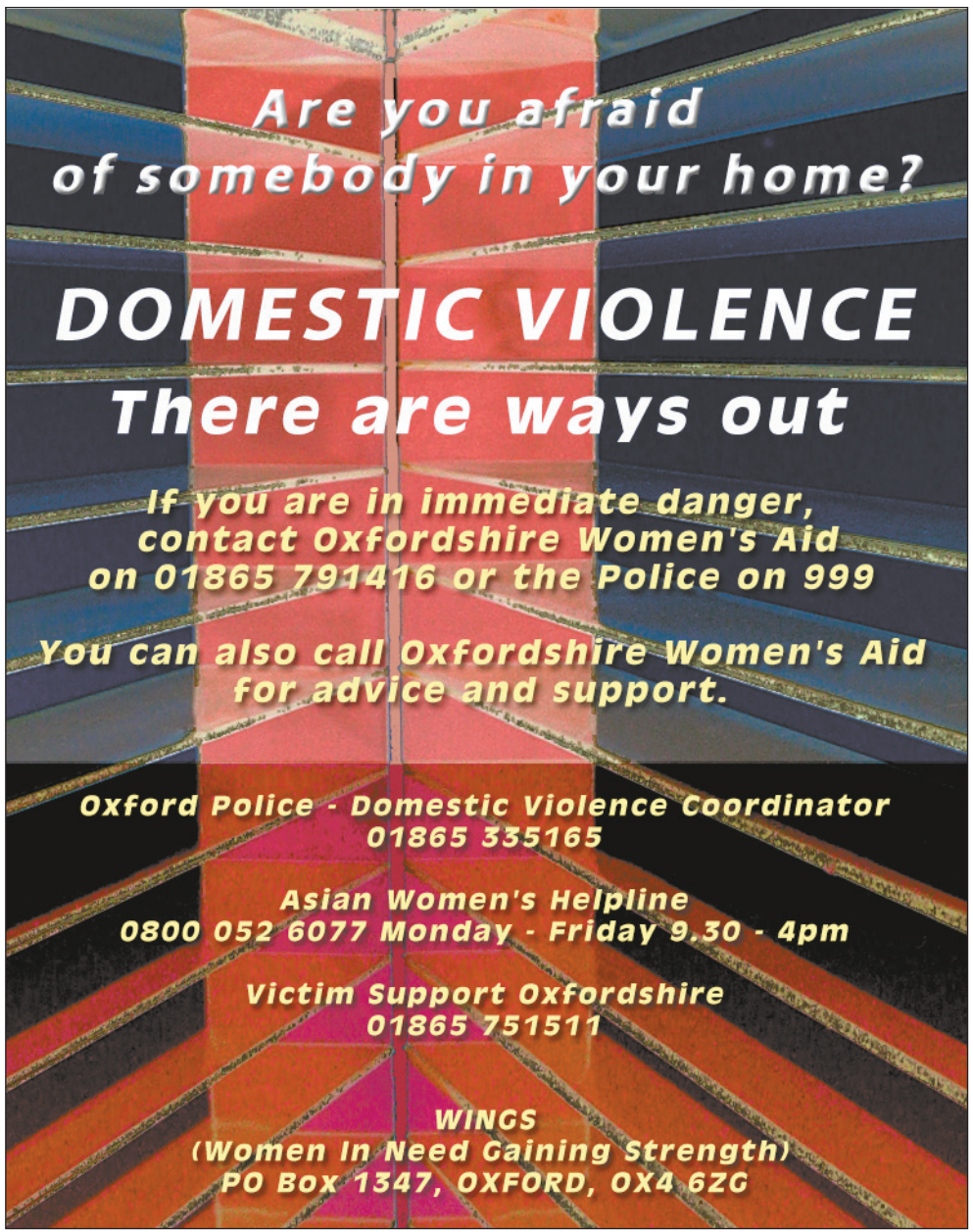
He is currently completing a doctorate so is very busy at the moment. To get in touch contact the church on 779658, otherwise contact Father John Hancock in Littlemore on 778454.

Local school gets glowing report

St John Fisher school recently received its OFSTED report and the outcome was very positive. The Catholic primary school, which has now been open for thirty five years, received much praise for its quality of teaching, the curriculum, the quality of care and the partnership with parents.

DIALABILITY moves on

This disability helpline has moved from the Rivermead Centre in Abingdon Road to the new Oxford Centre for Enablement at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford.
The new phone number is 763600.
The service is open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm and from 1 to 4pm on Thursdays.



CLOTH NAPPIES ARE COOL

More and more parents are now choosing to use cloth nappies on their babies. Not only are they cool on your pocket, cotton is cool for your baby and they look great!

Using washable nappies rather than disposables will save you money, even taking into account washing costs and wear and tear on your washing machine. The amount saved can be from a couple of hundred pounds up to a thousand pounds, and will be even more for subsequent children where the same nappies can be used again. Oxfordshire County Council will even give you £30 towards the cost of using washable nappies. People don't need to be told that children are expensive and any way to save some money is welcome!

Today's washable nappies have little to do with folding, pinning and crackly plastic pants. Velcro, poppers or plastic grippers hold them together and over the top goes a breathable waterproof cover. The hardest part may be choosing the cover - should it be leopard-print, deep purple or plain white?

You can forget the boiling too! Your washing machine will do all the hard work. No need to soak and the paper liner just flushes down the loo.
If washing still seems too much, a laundry service can deliver clean nappies to you once a week.

There is the environmental impact of 'disposables' too. Each day in Oxfordshire 106,000 nappies are thrown away. As they can take up to 300 years to bio -degrade, they are hardly disposable. Up to 20 trees are used to make just three years nappy supply for one baby. How often can you be 'green' and save money at the same time?

Real Nappy Week April 7 - 13 April is an annual event to promote the use of cloth nappies. Oxfordshire Real Nappy Network is planning to have a party to celebrate - anyone already using cloth nappies or wanting more information is welcome to join us. For further information contact - Jenny, Oxfordshire Real Nappy Network co-ordinator on 880592. This is a free advice service.

Some local suppliers
Twinkle Twinkle - Demonstrations and suppliers of all types of washable nappies. 841359.
Cottontails - Supplier of birth to potty nappy system 744977.
Nappy Tales - Nappy laundry service. 01235 812747.

Bus attacks increase

Several incidents of vandalism against local buses have happened in the area since the new year. The worst problems seem to be located on Pegasus Road and Field Avenue, where buses have had stones and possibly other missiles aimed at them by young people.

On Saturday 8 February a missile was propelled with such force that it went through windows on both sides of the bus, fortunately no-one was injured, but drivers and passengers have been put at risk. Phil Clark, commercial manager of the Oxford Bus Company said "There is a mood of disbelief amongst the drivers that this is happening, it's very serious and as a last resort we would consider suspending the service." The company is working closely with the police and local councillors and is encouraged by support from the local community. Anyone with information should contact Oxford police on 266333.

The long awaited move of the Oxford Bus Company's garage to the Dyer's Steel Works site on Watlington Road has been deferred to March 2004.

An invitation

to all black, ethnic and other minority elders

Age Concern are keen to hear from more people from minority communities who are over 50. If you want to have a say about what matters to you, and change things for the better, you can go to their Oxford forum on Thursday 13 March. It will take place at John Kallie Court, (Gillians Way, Cowley Road) from 11 to 3.30pm.

There will be small group discussions. Age Concern will listen and ensure that your voice gets heard by people who can make a difference, such as politicians and health workers. Guest speaker, Manjinder Sarai, will talk about his work in Bradford. Admission is free and includes lunch and refreshments.

Contact Mary Evans Young at Age Concern Oxfordshire, on 01295 268676 or Penny Thewlis on 01235 849400.

Classified Ads

Now that Leys News is coming out every two months we're going to start running FREE classified ads, for people who live on the estate.

Have you got something to sell for under £100? A piece of furniture? Computer games or equipment? Records or CD's?

Do you want to wish someone a happy birthday or anniversary?

Send us up to 20 words either:
1)As an email marked classifieds to leysnews@hotmail.com
2) Written in block capitals or typed, and delivered to our Kingfisher Green office. For sales we need to print a phone number.

Send us your pets

or at least their picture

Here's Benji, who's a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, with her owner Bridget.

If you've got a photo your pet send it into ***Leys News*** and we'll publish the funniest or most unusual photographs in future issues.
We don't mind if you've got a chameleon, a kangaroo, a lizard, a hedgehog or even a dog or cat.

Blackbird Bonanza

HELP! HELP! HELP!

The Blackbird Bonanza urgently needs new collectors

...to help this successful local lottery to continue. As a collector you will receive a **generous weekly commission,** along with a £50 bonus (after a qualifying period) for becoming a collector, and the chance to win **half yearly bonuses.** All this for just a couple of hours a week. You will be helping to fundraise for Pathway Workshop - a local charity for people with disabilities, along with earning a few **extra pounds!** You must be over the age of 18 and under 80, and preferably live on The Leys.
If you would like further details about becoming a collector, please telephone the Bonanza co-ordinator on Ox.423023 or alternatively the Pathway Workshop on Ox 714111 or pop into the workshop - we'd love to see you.

News News News

The Blackbird Bonanza Estate Kitty draw is due to take place at the end of March. If you know of a club, organisation or a child (0-16 years old) with disabilities on Blackbird Leys in need of some extra cash, please send your nominations in the form of a letter, by 14th March.

All nominations will be read and carefully selected to enter the draw. The nominations **must come from a Bonanza member** and you must put your Lucky Number on your nomination letter. The Bonanza co-ordinator will notify the winner as soon as the draw has taken place. The Blackbird Bonanza reserves the right not to put a nomination into the draw that does not have a lucky Bonanza number. All numbers will be checked against the name and address. Please send your entries to the address below marked **Blackbird Bonanza - Estate Kitty.**

For further information please contact the co-ordinator on Oxford 423023 or the Pathway Workshop Oxford 714111.

Pathway Workshop, Dunnock Way, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 7EX (Next to the Spar Shop)

PATHWAY WORKSHOP

Reg Charity No 1014416
Providing paid employment for adults with disabilities

QUALITY GARDEN PRODUCTS FROM SELECTED RECLAIMED TIMBER

- **TUBS & TROUGHS**
- **PICNIC BENCHES**
- **PARK BENCHES**
- **TRELLIS ARCHES**
- **TRELLIS FENCING**
- **COMPOST BINS**
- **WILDLIFE**

Tel: Oxford 714111
For brochure and price list

FULL DISPLAY

Templars Square, Cowley
10- 15 March
14 -19 April
12 - 17 May
9 -14 June

Milton Keynes Spring Show
3 May

Blenheim Flower Show
19 - 22 June

Workshop and display open at
Dunnock Way (off Windale Avenue), Blackbird Leys, Oxford
Mon-Thur 8.30 - 5.00 and Fri 8.30 - 4.00

New babies group

All new babies and their parents are welcome at the Dovecote on a Friday morning for Homestart's 'New babies group'. It runs from 10.30 to 11.30 during term time and the group is always happy to welcome new people. It's a good time to socialise over a hot drink and find out about other activities in the area. Call Homestart on 779991 to find out more or just drop in on a Friday morning.

Raise cash for your group at Leys Fair

The organisers of this year's Leys Fair on **Saturday 14 September** are offering a no risk, sure fire way for community and sports groups to bring in some extra cash.

They are organising a prize draw offering attractive prizes. They are looking for local groups to sell the tickets. All groups keep 50p from each £1 book. Contact Paul on 401098.

Youth activities and events

March and April

Look out for

Comic Relief

events at the centre and elsewhere Friday 14 March.

DJ nights the Area Youth Club at the Barn
Wednesday 19 March 7 - 9pm
Wednesday 2 April 7 - 9pm

Plug into Music 14 - 18 April

Big Art with the ICON project
Tuesday 22 to Friday 25 April

Regular sessions

Monday
CK Street Dance - youth centre 6 - 9.30pm

Tuesday
OCEG Homework Club 4 - 5pm

Wednesday
Drop into **the Edge** 1 - 4pm
OCEG Homework Club 4.30 - 6.30pm
The Edge youth club sessions 7 - 9.30pm
Area Youth Club 7-9pm the Barn

Thursday
Youth art and design 6 - 9pm art space downstairs
Small Changes women's project 8 - 9.30pm
Leisure Centre

Friday
To be announced live dj's and mc's at **the Blue Room**

unless otherwise indicated events happen at the youth centre

further information from Katy on 772886 or Dolcie on 778250

Competition winner

Congratulations to Alex Sampson from Jack Argent Close who won an inflatable globe in our scrambled place name competition from December's issue Alex is pictured here with his sister Amber and their new puppy Dino.

Michael Fitzpatrick

I grew up on Blackbird Leys Road and lived there until 1973 when I moved to Canada, I am now 56 and went to Edmund Campion school in Iffley. Strong memories are Friday and Saturday nights in town at Whites bar and all the good friends I had at the time, I was called Mick or Fitz and anyone from that time would remember me I think, I married a local girl [since divorced and in a new relationship with a Canadian lady] and have three kids the oldest is 27 and the youngest is 17.

Does anyone remember Michael? Contact him on lfitzpatrick@speed-line.ca

Afya
Energising Women

Launch and Celebrations Sunday March 9 at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre. From 11am this free event encourages women to come and get energised and take the opportunity to find out about health and fitness, to try different foods, discover different fitness activities and meet other women - bring your friends and have a fun time.

Another event in Oxford's two week long celebration of International Women's Day. Programmes are available at the Leisure Centre and many other venues all over town.

Afya Energising Women

Jamming

Plug into Music has given nearly 100 young people an exiting opportunity to have a go at music making. There were structured courses and week long "drop in" sessions for ages nine to sixteen. These covered vocal techniques, lyric writing and MC'ing, mixing, scratching, and beat matching; jamming on drums, guitar and keyboards, and music technology (sampling, sequencing and recording). The workshops were based at Blackbird Leys Youth and Community Centre and made use of local studio "Soundworks". Live performances took place at the Leys Fair and in the Community Centre, and two CD's were produced.

Jerome, one of the young people, said he had enjoyed making music and would like to put his own words to the rhythms, and Jennifer said "I didn't know that our voices could mix so well." Kyron had learnt "how to scratch, change the sample and make the beats match", and Michelle said they had learnt "to keep in rhythm together." Co-ordinator Paul Thompson works with professional music makers Trisha Elphinstone and Miles Glen. Youth workers and music makers Dylan Davies, Dave Norland, Mikee Jay-Stone, Calvin Welch, Natty Mark and Serena Siani have also been involved.

The February half term workshop had sessions on vocals, mixing, music technology, percussion and building, operating and dismantling a sound system and lighting rig. A similar one is planned for this Easter holiday from 14th to the 18th of April, which will be the final one of the eight month scheme. Most sessions will be completely free.

Due to the success of **Plug into Music** and the enthusiasm generated, they are seeking funding to continue creating musical opportunities for the community as a whole. Watch out for a fundraising event **Plug into Music and Jam,** an open-stage session fusing different cultures, styles and abilities through the global language of music.

Blackbird Leys Looking Back

Mrs McKay contacted Leys News when she read about our appeal for stories, reminiscences and images from earlier days in Blackbird Leys. A cottage once stood where Evenlode Tower now stands, it was tied to the sewage works that were here before Blackbird Leys was built. In the middle of the last century a certain William Quartermain lived there, he was the foreman at those works and also the grandfather of Mrs McKay, a current resident of Blackbird Leys.

She told us that her grandfather William, who had eight children, died in 1952. His wife is pictured standing outside the cottage. Mrs Mckay told us that she fondly remembers visiting her granfather and family at the cottage by walking down the hill from Garsington, where she lived, and passing two cottages, on Watlington Road, which were close to where the electricity substation now stands. She also remembered Hoddinott's Farm, a gamekeeper's cottage at Elderfield and walking along the track to visit the Preston's, who lived in another cottage at Minchery Farm.

Thanks to Mrs McKay for responding. Does anyone else remember any of these people or places connected to the days before Blackbird Leys was built in the fifties? Please get in touch with Leys News and tell us about it.

War time glider lands in sewage farm

Thanks to artist Steve Hurst contributed this piece of local history. Can anyone else remember this ?

There was a huge scrap metal yard near the Cowley works which Steve remembers climbing into as a child. This influenced his work as an artist much later he says. It's the same one which Paul Nash based his painting, Totes Meer, (right) that hangs in the Tate Gallery.

There was a derelict brick kiln and chimney, where the Sandford Science Park is now. From about 1940 onwards this was the site of an anti-aircraft battery, one of a ring around Cowley, protecting the Morris factories. During the airborne landing at Arnhem in 1944 masses of transport aircraft towed gliders full of assault troops bound for Holland. Tow aircraft and gliders alike were distinctive, marked by black and white stripes under their wings. The sky over the Thames Valley was full of them. One of the smaller gliders slipped its tow rope and came down on open ground, which happened to be Sandford Sewage farm. Artillery men from the brick kiln battery rescued the glider troops. Naturally all the kids in the village made for the brick kiln as fast as short legs or bike pedals could take them. There sat the most pissed off section of soldiers you ever saw waiting for a truck to take them back to whatever airfield they flew from. Next day a 'Queen Mary' a long articulated lorry came and picked up the glider.

The artillery men told us that the glider soldiers would fly the day after their mishap. I remember them as very young and very angry – as though someone might blame them for cowardice. Arnhem being the bungled operation that it was no doubt they were flown in to reinforce the beseiged paratroops, and no doubt many of them lost their lives, poor sods.

TOTES MEER painted by Paul Nash in 1940
Nash worked as an official war artist and painted this image of the Cowley dump where bits of German bombers and fighters shot down in the Battle of Britain were collected. Paul Nash worked from his photos of the dump. The title is German and means "Dead Sea".

Spot the differences and win £10

There are seven changes between the two drawings below. To enter circle the differences, cut out the drawings and send it to us at ***Leys News*** (address on page 2) with your name and address by the end of March. The lucky winner will receive £10. Thanks to Julian Dourado for the artwork.

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Letters to Leys News

write to Leys News. Please keep letters to 250 words from now on.

Dear Leys News,
The University Boys Clubs and the Oxford working class

From the evidence of many a doorstep conversation, University Boys Clubs played a significant role in the formative years of many of the Leys' more mature residents. In conversations about the clubs, I have been struck by the fondness with which they are remembered and the regret expressed that such facilities are not available to today's youngsters.

I thought it may be worthwhile looking at what these clubs were about and why they are no longer with us...

A generation ago, Oxford played host to a number of boys (and girls) clubs, set up across the city to facilitate working class youngsters. These clubs took the name of the university colleges that funded them and local teenagers didn't give a second thought that their club bore the name, 'Balliol', 'Oxford & Worcester', or 'New College'. These clubs were joined by the likes of the YMCA, (who's boxing club in Catherine Street, nurtured many a fine Blackbird Leys boxer until its recent closure,) and Wolvercote Boys' club. It may be of some significance that the Wolvercote club, in relatively affluent North Oxford, is the last one standing. All in all, these clubs gave many youths from less than well off backgrounds the opportunity to enjoy sports and social activities which would have otherwise been unobtainable.

It is likely that the current chronic under-funding, which sees the County Council rank 132nd out of 136 local authorities in spending per head on youth provision, dates back to the days of what were in effect, heavy subsidies from the University, through the boys clubs.
So why did these clubs disappear? To answer this question, we have to ask, why they existed in the first place? From the turn of the century, right up until the early eighties, it appeared, to the powers that be, that the organised working class was too strong. A large part of the workforce was concentrated in heavy industry, which often brought thousands of workers together under one roof. The opportunities this presented for working class organisation were evident throughout the 1970's at the Cowley car plant where strong unions had pushed members wages up to some of the highest for blue collar workers in the country. Amongst the many tactics of undermining this militancy was the logic of 'throw 'em a few loaves and they'll leave the bakery alone'; a pacified working class being less of a danger than a hungry one. With this in mind, the date and venue of the meeting to establish the first of the university clubs - Balliol Boys Club, is very significant.
In 1907 a committee from Balliol College was sent to Ruskin Hall, Walton Street, to try to 'understand at first hand the outlook of labour' and to discuss plans to fund the setting up of a boys club in an Oxford 'slum'.

Ruskin College was dedicated to the education of the working class. It was funded by the unions and its student body consisted typically of coalminers, steelworkers and railwaymen. The period in which the college was founded saw the emergence of a new working class confidence, which was soon expressed at Oxford in the 'Ruskin Strike' of 1907. The students took action over attempts to indoctrinate them in free market economics and to assimilate Ruskin into the University. When the college authorities dismissed a popular lecturer for not towing the line, classes were boycotted and a strike was proclaimed. The main protagonists moved on to set up the Central Labour College, offering "Independence in working class education". The University watched developments at Ruskin with great interest. One of its responses was the Boys' Club initiative.

The decline in strength of the organised working class was closely followed by the withdrawal of funding by the University. If youth provision was only provided as insurance against any danger of the working class getting ideas 'above their station', then once the danger had disappeared, so could the youth provision. Today, with working class guns so often turned inwards, there is more of a need to give our youngsters a helping hand than at any time in living memory. That youth provision is woefully inadequate, and that Oxford University money is nowhere to be seen, only reinforces the argument that funding was more about fear of the working class than compassion for it.

Stuart Craft
Councillor, Northfield Brook.

Were any of our readers members of these clubs? If you were please tell us about your experiences.

Dear Leys News,
May I ask, through your paper, why, year after year, residents in the Blackbird Leys Parish Council area do not receive a breakdown of the accounts?
As chair of Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Tenants Forum, I have asked for this information each year, and still we have no published accounts.
They appear to spend very little of our money. Are they salting it away for something that the area doesn't need or want? If they are - all I can say is 'How dare you?' Come clean, make your accounts public, tell where the money is and show us what, if anything the parish council has done for this estate.
Yours faithfully, Jenny Clamp

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Local training will be given free in the summer to those who could spare 1½ hours per week to work with kids in local first schools who are finding reading hard. The training is a total of six hours, spread over three days. You would then go into a local school each week and work with three children for half an hour each. You would receive excellent support from our friendly team.

Ring Mary or Hilary on Oxford 764484 before the end of March to find out more.

Ground cover

by Mr GREENFINGERS Stuart Mabbutt

Outwitting weeds without weed-killer

All the weeds are germinating as fast as you can hoe them off. How can you fend off these enemies that try to invade each year? If you are trying to limit chemical use and find alternatives to the weed-killers that line the garden-centre shelves, maybe investing in ground-cover plants is for you.

Hardy geraniums are a dependable plant, ideal for ground cover. Otherwise known as cranesbills, they have one to two inch saucer-like flowers, with endless variations of colour from reds, whites, and pinks through to blues. But don't get these exquisite little beauties confused with the more tender pelargonium types, with their stunning variegated foliage, which are used in many summer bedding displays.

Hardy geraniums flourish in situations where few others succeed, except the dreaded weeds. With thick cushions of small leaves that vary tremendously in shape, they quickly spread and smother the merest thought of a weed. They flower for much of the summer, and if cut back when they are struggling, during hot periods, they will quickly regenerate, producing a fresh crop of delicate leaves, and flowering profusely until well into the autumn.

Hardy geraniums are one of the easiest plants to propagate. It's as simple as just snapping a portion off the thick spreading stems. As long as the cuttings are kept moist while the establishing process takes place you can't fail to increase your stock. You can also divide your plants if they become old and the clumps die out from the middle. Simply lift the entire plant during the autumn and split into quarters with two garden forks. Replant with a good helping of fresh garden compost, and they'll thrive for another three or four years. If you plant every last space you have in dappled shade with these geraniums, you'll soon have an ample supply of propagation material. An annual cut back to ground level in the late autumn is about all that remains to be done to these adaptable little plants.

Happy gardening, and remember, weed your lawns as well as your borders. Above all, never let any weed flower. Until next time..

Library closes and opens

Blackbird Leys Library, which has been shut for most of February, should be partially open by the tenth of March.

There will be access to the front third of the building while the rest of the work is carried out. All books will be available for lending, but there will be no computer or internet access until the work is finished. On reopening there will be more terminals. The building programme involves building a mezzanine floor to house a community education classroom and office which will be accessible through both stairs and a lift. The ABLE centre will also be relocated, on the ground floor at the back of the library.

Look out for a grand reopening of your local library in late spring or early summer.

SKILLS SHOWTIME

Join us at our Skills Showtime Guidance Event. Thurs 15 April. 7pm - 9pm
City Centre Campus Oxford College
Explore the full range of skills you can obtain at Oxford College.

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Monday 9.45 am -11.15 am
St. Peter and St. Pauls' Church Hall, West Way, Botley
Monday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm
Kennington Village Hall, Kennington Road, Kennington
Tuesday 5.45 pm - 7.15 pm
Oxford School, Glanville Road, Cowley
Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm & 7.30 -9.00 pm
Cowley Conservative Club, 19 Between Towns Road, Cowley
Wednesday 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm
St. Michaels C.E. First School, Marston Road, Marston
Wednesday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm
Wolvercote Primary School, First Turn, Wolvercote ★
Wednesday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm
St. Francis C.E. First School, Horspath Road,Cowley ★
Wednesday 8.00 pm - 9.15 pm
Beckley Village Hall, Woodperry Road, Beckley ★
Thursday 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm
United Reform Church Hall, Collinwood Road, Headington
Thursday 6.30 - 8.00 pm & 8.00 - 9.30 pm
Sandford Village Hall, Henley Road, Sandford on Thames
Friday 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm

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Advice centre reaches out

The newly renamed Agnes Smith Advice Centre has a new outreach worker, she is Mandy Richards, pictured below, who comes from Bicester Citizens Advice Bureau. Mandy joins the already in-post outreach worker Judy Gay, pictured below right, in a job share. Together they are building up an outreach service which includes drop in sessions at the Clockhouse on Mondays from 10 to 12 and at the Farmhouse on Tuesdays from 10 to12.30 and Thursdays from 10.30 to 12. They also run an appointment session at the Leys Linx Centre.

To make an appointment call the Agnes Smith Advice Centre on 770206.

The centre is always looking for volunteers to help with reception and other duties.

Into the net

Blackbird Leys will soon have its own website. **www.blackbirdleys.com** was voted best name by users of the IT hub, and has now been registered as its address. Community groups and organisations like the Credit Union and the Holy Family Church will have a page on the site, or a link to information about them. A meeting was held in February to start planning this community website. Lots of suggestions were made including a message board, a photo gallery, and an interactive map of the area. Students from the web design course will have the opportunity to practise their new skills in creating and maintaining this site. Local people will be able to contribute to the site, which will be launched later in the year.

The Magdalene Sisters

a film review by Julian Dourado

Based on the accounts of inmates, this harrowing film depicts life in Ireland's infamous Magdalen convents, where women deemed to be "fallen" were incarcerated.

During the mid 1960's three teenage girls, labelled as being "wayward", are sent by their families and guardians to one of these prison like institutions.

Here the girls, having to work all day and every day in a laundry, are subjected to a life of severe discipline and sadistic punishments by the supervising nuns.

Contact with the outside world is not allowed and friendships between the inmates are strongly discouraged, making the convent an extremely alienating and lonely place.

The film is unrelentingly bleak, at times difficult to watch and does not supply the viewer with a comfortable happy ending, though it can at times tremendously moving and powerful.

This is definitely not one to see if you are in need of a feel-good movie. I would recommend it to those looking for some insight into social injustice and religious oppression. The Magdalene Sisters is now showing nationwide.

If you are interested in reviewing films, plays, art exhibitions or gigs for Leys News please get in touch. We don't mind if you are not experienced, your enthusiasm is more important. Some free tickets are available.

Photography exhibition

The David Goldblatt photography exhibition 'Fifty One years' continues at Modern Art Oxford, Pembroke Street, until the end of March. This striking range of mostly black and white photos goes under the skin of the apartheid era from the fifties up to the present day.

Well worth a visit if you're in town. Modern Art Oxford now has free entry at all times.

COMMUNITY CHEST

LEYS LINX: THE LEYS SRB 5 SCHEME

THE LEYS COMMUNITY CHEST:

LOCAL GRANTS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

You can apply to the Chest for grants, up to £500, for:

- *Volunteer expenses*
- *Equipment*
- *Training*
- *Research and visiting other projects*
- *Start-up costs*
- *Local events and one-off projects*

Next round of applications need to reach us by: ***Friday 11th April 2003***

Application forms can be obtained from:
Leys Linx,
Blackbird Leys Community Centre,
Blackbird Leys Road,
Blackbird Leys,
OXFORD OX4 6HW.
(Tel. 396392)

This Leys Community Chest is funded by the Government's Single Regeneration Budget.

What do Area Committees do?

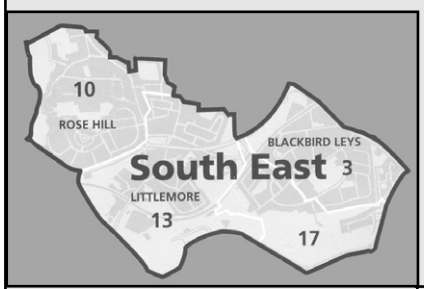
The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

- abandoned vehicles
- allotments
- car parks
- cemeteries
- community centres
- decisions on planning applications
- ditches and streams
- dog wardens
- parks and countryside management
- public toilets
- street cleaning
- street naming

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

South East Area Committee meetings

Ring 252249 for further information



Monday 17th March
6.30pm - 9.30pm
Rose Hill
Community Centre
The Oval

Monday 7th April
6.30pm - 9.30pm
Cardinal House
Cardinal Close
off Newman Road

Tuesday 6th May
6.30pm - 9.30pm
Blackbird Leys
Leisure Centre
Pegasus Road

News from Leys Linx your local regeneration scheme

New learning on the Leys

Two workers have been appointed by the Leys Community Learning Project: Maria Franchi (Project Manager) and Emma Nawrocki (Administrator). Both are based at the Community Centre.

The project is looking for community groups active in the Leys area who would like to access free training. Maria and Emma can visit your group, work with you to identify exactly what training you need, and then help you get it. They can also offer other kinds of support, including organising away days.

The project plans to offer training for local residents, volunteers and community group members. It will help them to get to grips with everything they need to know to be active in the local community. Some courses, such as health and safety or childcare, will lead to a certificate, and childcare costs and travel can be paid.

The Project is running taster sessions and some longer courses.
Here are the start dates:

March 2003: First Aid; Community Development; Dealing with Difficult Behaviour; Fundraising.
April 2003: Community Development; Running Successful Events; Community Health Issues; Making Meetings Matter.
May 2003: Community Health Issues; Changing Rooms; Organising your Finances; Effective Communication; Health and Safety.

A key part of the Project is to set up a network of groups already offering training on the Leys, so that they can work together.

Look out for the Project's quarterly newsletter, The Learning Times, which will be distributed with Leys News, and also for the Learning Fair which the Project is organising in May 2003.

If you are interested in any part of the Leys Community Learning Project's work, get in touch with Maria or Emma on 396755.

Funded by European Social Fund.
Delivered by Ruskin College in partnership with Leys Linx

Left: Maria Franchi and Emma Nawrocki

It can be fun but you might get certified!

In December seven people who completed the participatory learning and training course received certificates.

Congratulations to Annette Powell, Marje Lowrie, Roy Simmonds, Janet Simmonds, Maureen Naughton, Diana Law and Enid Foster, whose certificates were handed out by David Truesdale, Chair of the Leys Linx Partnership Board.

Feedback showed that the course had been enjoyable, helped increase participants' confidence, knowledge and skills, and enabled them to find out what is happening in the community. It also had social benefits, as they made connections with other local people, and were motivated to take action on a number of local issues.

There will be more of this type of accredited training from April.
If you are interested please contact Maria on 396755.

Welcome Sue

Welcome to Sue Weinstock, our new Community Development Worker, who starts work at the Leys Linx Centre in March.

Sue says, "Hello to all of you on the Leys.

For the past year I've been working in Kidlington supporting various community groups such as residents associations; mother and baby groups; and social clubs. My role spanned from helping groups fundraise to giving practical help in running committees. I've been teaching computer skills to a group of older learners, which was lots of fun. I've also been running a community arts project making up mosaic panels.

I am really looking forward to meeting groups and individuals involved in various local projects. Please do come and say hello to me, and have a chat about any of the above if you think I can bring something to your group, or if you want to start a group."

Sue Weinstock

Music turned up

Plans for a new Music Studio at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre got a boost with an allocation of £9,000.

There is optimism that the Music Studio is no longer a dream but something which is really going to happen.

This money comes from the Crime Retail Initiative, a Government funded scheme co-ordinated by Oxford City Council, GOSE (Government of the South East) has also promised money.

Thoughts on drugs

How do drugs affect us as a community? What needs to be done to improve local drug related services? If you have a view and want to feed your ideas into an action plan contact us on 396392.

Leys Linx has been funded to find views by the Government's Communities Against Drugs Programme.

Grants for groups

If your community or voluntary group needs a grant it's that time of year again when you can apply to the Leys Community Chest.

The Community Chest Panel is run by local people and has around £5,000 to allocate. To date the panel has allocated over £20,000 to a wide range of community groups on the Leys. Maybe your group should apply this year! The deadline is Friday 11th April 2003.

See advert opposite (page 12) or ring 396392 for details.

Healthy Living

The Leys will benefit in a number of ways from this three year initiative to improve health across the whole of East Oxford. The kitchens at the Community Centre will be refurbished, and space developed at the Leys Linx Centre for health outreach.

Further information tel 396392

Life at Leys Linx

There's lots going on at the Centre. Beat the loan sharks and visit the Leys Credit Union. Get advice about training and learning from Information Advice and Guidance (IAG). For issues related to benefits, book an appointment with the outreach worker from the Agnes Smith Advice Centre. If you are in dispute with an agency, family member or neighbour you can see the Oxford Mediation Service. Get independent advice on all issues relating to housing from Oxfordshire Housing Rights. If we can't solve a problem on the spot we will be able to signpost you to someone who can help.

Finally don't forget BLITZ (the Blackbird Leys Information Technology Zone).

Need a place to hold a meeting in an informal setting or just want a chat and a cup of tea? Do drop in!

For information about all centre activities contact Enid on 402070.

Leys Linx is supported by the Government's Single Regeneration Budget

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Your elected representatives

Member of Parliament - Oxford East

Andrew Smith - *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD
772893
Surgeries held first Friday each month at Barton Neighborhood Centre 3 - 3.45
Princes St 4.15 - 5.30
Rose Hill Community Centre 6 - 7
Third Friday each month rolling surgery around the constituency, including Blackbird Leys. Please call for precise times and locations.

Andrew Smith

City councillors

Blackbird Leys ward

Cllr Val Smith - *Labour*
4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD
772893
mobile 07767 446051

Val Smith

Cllr Pat Stannard - *Labour*
31 Green Hill OX4 7UD
777433

Pat Stannard

Northfield Brook ward

Cllr Molly Florey - *Labour*
122 Sandy Lane Oxford OX4 6AS
712620

Molly Florey

Cllr Stuart Craft
Independent Working Class Association
07733 274324
stuart@bliwca.fsnet.co.uk

County councillor

Blackbird Leys ward

Cllr Barbara Gatehouse - *Labour*
33 Salford Rd Oxford OX3 ORY
240424

Stuart Craft

Labour councillors surgeries

Every Saturday 11 to 12
Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
unless otherwise stated

8 March Pat Stannard
15 March Val Smith
and Molly Florey Kingfisher Green
22 March Val Smith
29 March Pat Stannard
5 April Molly Florey Kingfisher Green
12 April Val Smith
19 April Pat Stannard
26 April Molly Florey Kingfisher Green
3 May Pat Stannard

Barbara Gatehouse

IWCA Cllr Stuart Craft surgeries

Saturdays 10 - 11am
8 March Kingfisher Green
22 March, BBL Leisure Centre
5 April Kingfisher Green
19 April The Clockhouse.

Blackbird Leys Credit Union
at Leys Linx Centre
Open
Monday 10 - 11am
Tuesday 7 - 7.30pm
Saturday 10.30 - 11.30

Useful local numbers

Services

Abandoned vehicles If on public land call 252942
Asian Women's helpline 0800 0526077
Bulk rubbish collection 725912
Dialability (Disability helpline) 763600.
Dog nuisance - call the dog warden on 252914. Out of hours 240924.
Fridges/freezers free collection 252936
Garden refuse Green waste sacks 50p each. Call 725912. Better still compost your own.
Junk mail - to stop receiving unsolicited mail write to FREEPOST 22, London W1E. Free service
Noise pollution 252556
Pavement hazards (eg uneven surfaces) 747390
Pest control 252384
Pollution in streams and rivers call 0800 807060
Street lighting to report faulty lights call freephone 0800 317802
Syringe collection 249811
Trading standards 815000

Local organisations

Accan (African-Caribbean Community Action Network) 467050
Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground 747704
Agnes Smith Advice Centre 770206
Blackbird Leys Community Centre bookings 435954 centre manager 401098
Blackbird Leys Library 770403
Blackbird Leys Youth Centre 772886
Blackbird Leys Credit Union 773098
CMS Bar Community Centre 777162
First Blackbird Leys Brownies 770959
First Blackbird Leys Rainbow Guides 396553
Leys Community Development Initiative 395927
Leys Linx office 396392
Leys Linx centre 402070
Oasis drop in centre for women who have experienced mental health problems. Open Mondays 5-9 and Fridays 11-3 off Cowley Road. 721472
Oxford Community Mediation 776789
Parish Council 734346

Education

Able Adult basic skills centre 776334
Community Education East and South Oxford 712094
Oxford College FE Leys campus 245871

Sports

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre 467020
Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool 467040
Peers Sports Centre 467095

Health

Doctors surgery 778244
Blackbird Leys Health Centre 778244
Health visitors 715689

Under 8's

Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre 773263
Dovecote Under 8's building 712299
Homestart (home visiting scheme for under 5's) 779991
The PEEP Centre (Peers Early Education Partnership) 395145

Housing

Ealing Family Housing Association
Elaine Partridge/Rhiannon Jones 712244 FAX 712121
The Farmhouse opening times Mon - Fri 9 - 1 and 2 - 5 except Fri 2 - 4

Oxford Citizens Housing Association
All calls through customer services 773000
Farmhouse office Mark Kimber / Elizabeth Naluwooza / Aida Tomolso open as per Ealing Family (above).

Cherwell Housing Trust
Customer Services 260555

Northcote Housing Association 712244

Leys Residents Association
Open to all residents in the new part of Blackbird Leys. Contact via 26 Kingfisher Green 749876
lra1@hotmail.com

Blackbird Leys Local Services Shop
3 Cuddesdon Way
Mon - Thurs 9 to 5
Fri 9 to 4.30 467222

Oxford Housing Rights free and confidential advice 247853

Police

999 - In an emergency or if you see a crime being or about to be committed.

Community beat officers Sergeant Steve Redding.

Community Beat Office and answer machine. For non urgent matters, advice and information. 335138
Police Customer Services To report incidents that do not need police attendance call 266333
Oxford Control Room To report crime that requires the police 266000
Cowley Police Station 749909
Family Protection Unit 335200
Crimestoppers freephone 0800 555111

Fire

Oxfordshire Fire Service helpline 719900

For more details of local groups and meetings see the bi-monthly Leys Bulletin.

Leys News Bulletin What's on in Blackbird Leys

Dates for your diary

Sunday 9 March
Afya - Energising Women celebrations - Leisure Centre, from 11am free entrance
other Oxford International Womens Day events up to March 16
Thursday 13 March 7pm Leys Fair planning meeting - Leys Linx Centre
Saturday 5 April 6.30pm Antigua and Barbuda Choir - Holy Family Church ***p6***
Thursday 13 March 11- 3.30pm Forum for black & ethnic minority elders. ***p7***
Monday 7 April Deadline for May issue of ***Leys News***
Wednesday 9 April 1.30pm Meeting to plan children's activities for the Leys Fair - the Dovecote.
Saturday 21 April Looking Glass Fair - Oxford Town Hall ***p9***
Sunday 14 September Leys Fair - Blackbird Leys Park & Leisure Centre

What's on weekly

Age Concern resource desk at the Clockhouse, regular computer sessions for the over 50's. Info on 717614

Area Youth Club Weds 7-9pm Barn

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground
After School Club
Monday to Friday 3 - 5.15pm

Carer and toddler group Thursday 9.15 - 11 and Friday 1-3 at the Dovecote £1

Dovecote After School Club
Monday to Thursday 3.15 - 4.45pm

Dovecote Saturday Club 10 - 1pm

Drop in club Monday 10-1.30 at the Clockhouse £2 + 50p membership

The Edge - Youth Club
BBL Community Centre Wednesday 1 - 4.30 drop in & 7.30 - 9.30pm club

Family nurturing network
Tuesday 9 - 1.30 at the Clockhouse

Home Start First Babies
Dovecote Friday 10.30 - 12

Karate Kids Tuesday 6-7pm and Thursday 5.45 - 6.45pm at the Barn

Lunch club Thursday 12.30-2.30 at the Barn. £2.50 followed by bingo.

New parents group 10.30 - 11.30 Fridays at the Dovecote

Self defence 6-9pm Tues at Barn

SNAK Lunch Club
Mondays 10.30 - 1pm at the Dovecote

Weight watchers
7-8 Thursday at the Barn

PEEP groups on the Leys

offering all families with babies and young children activities to support learning

Monday 9:45 Twos - Holy Family CH
Tuesday 9:30 Babies - Health Centre
Tuesday 11:15 Ones - Health Centre
Tuesday 1:30 Babies - Clockhouse
Tuesday 1:30 Twos - Dovecote
Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 Babies - Peep Plus Cuddesdon Corner FC
Wednesday - Threes & fours - Orchard Meadow School
Thursday 11.00 Ones - Clockhouse
Thursday 1:30 Babies - Dovecote
Thursday Threes & fours - Pegasus School
Thursday Threes & fours - Windale School
Thursday 9:45 Threes & fours - Holy Family Church Hall
Saturday 10-12 Twos - Peep Plus Cuddesdon Corner FC

Peep Plus a new ten week course for you and your child age 0-2.
Ideas for things to do together at home, includes a free day trip and the whole family is welcome.

For more information about any of the PEEP activities in the area call them on 395145

Blackbird Leys Parish Council

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Leys Linx Centre Blackbird Leys Community Centre
Everyone is welcome.Check out www.blackbirdleys.co.uk for further information on the council's website.

BLACKBIRD LEYS TENANTS FORUM

meets on the second Monday of the month at the **Local Services Shop** on Cuddesdon Way at 7pm. ***All council tenants welcome***

Capoeira and street dance

A dance and a martial art

These young people, pictured right, tried out capoeira at the Barn over the recent half term. They were also creating street dance moves with tutor Ronkie who is pictured at the back of the photo. This was part of the Leys Community Development Initiative's half term programme for young people.

Originally from Brazil cpaoeira evolved from slaves disguising their martial art as a dance to fool their masters. It's recently swept through Britain and is riding a wave of popularity. Capoeira groups, including beginners groups, practice at East Oxford Sport Hall four times a week. Anyone interested can call Suzette Young on Oxford 423119 to find out more.

For other activities at East Oxford Sports Hall, also the home of ACCAN, call 0778 6266146.

Half term football frenzy

The Leys Youth Football Club ran an indoor football coaching week over half term at the Leisure Centre.

The club is part of the Leys Youth programme, supported by the Leys Community Development Initiative, various charitable trusts and the Leys Community Church, and provides young people in the area with various sporting and other opportunities.

The club offers three training sessions on a Friday evening
5-6pm at the Leisure Centre for boys aged 8 to 12.
7-8pm at the Leisure Centre for girls aged 8 to 16.
8-9pm at Peers Sports Hall for boys aged 13 to 16.

It costs 50p each week which goes towards trips to sporting events. The club doesn't play in a league, but arranges friendlies. They are backed by the Oxfordshire Football Association.

Fitness classes at the Leisure Centre

Monday
10 - 11am Step and Tone 6-7pm Aerotone
Tuesday
10 - 11am Aerotone 6-7pm Tae Kwon Do
Wednesday 6-7pm Legs, Bums &Tums
Thursday
10 - 11am Step and Tone 6-7pm Tae Kwon Do
Friday
10 - 11am Legs, Bums & Tums 7-8pm Boxing circuits

Call 467020 to find out more about activities at the Leisure Centre including hiring the snooker table, booking the creche and the cost of hiring any area within the centre.

WATER WORKOUT CLASSES
Exercise in water to music
Tuesdays and Fridays 12 noon to 1pm
Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool - phone 467040

FITNESS EXCHANGE

Bring in this advert for a FREE TRIAL

Facilities Include:

• Full Cardio Theatre • State of the art Gymnasium • Free Weights
• Spin Studio • All Aerobic Classes Included • Steam Room
• Sauna • Spa Pool • Free Car Parking

Fitness Exchange Health Club,
Oxford Greyhound Stadium, Cowley, Oxford
(01865) 396395